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**Statement submitted by Centre africain de recherche industrielle  
(CARI), a non-governmental organization in consultative status  
with the Economic and Social Council\***

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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\* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

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## Statement

The Millennium Development Goals were launched in a climate of uncertainty, States and target populations being unprepared to take up the challenges. For that reason, almost the world over, the pursuit of the MDGs (eradication of poverty, education for all, equal opportunity for men and women, reduction of maternal and child mortality, the fight against HIV/AIDS, environmental sustainability, global partnership for development, etc.) was left to intuition and chance.

This goes far to explain the mixed results in most countries, and the present shift from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals. The SDGs reflect the Post-2015 Development Agenda, whose targets include the promotion of a healthy environment, the fight against global warming, the eradication of poverty in all its forms, etc. We are faced with the need to embark on a revolution that will avoid the improvisations of the past; one that all stakeholders must clearly get behind—Governments at all levels, members of deliberative assemblies, the private sector, opinion leaders, and the population as a whole.

The statistical information needed to eradicate poverty and track development progress must be made available to the target population in a timely manner and in the right format.

As we begin work on the Sustainable Development Goals, special attention will have to be paid to technical progress and innovation, which are the basis for an increase in the productivity of the factors of production and the surest guarantee of growth that will lead to development. Centres of excellence will have to be created everywhere, particularly in Africa, where this development requirement is not on the radar of our leaders, development partners or, what is worse, the local intelligentsia. Perhaps the problem lies in a lack of understanding and mastery of the subject.

As we await the adoption and launch of a new development agenda by the General Assembly in September 2015, this question must be placed on the roadmap and bring about a revolution in thinking, which must now be considered an essential factor in development.

Kinshasa, 21/04/2015 — CARI management

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